GEOGRAPICAL GROUPING FOR SOUTH EAST AND EAST ASIA

The International Teaching Centre
Baha'i World Centre

7 January 2008

Beloved friends,

I. PREAMBLE

We are pleased to inform that the Geographical Grouping for South East and East Asia (GGSEEA) held its 4th meeting from the 2nd and 3rd January, 2008 in Bangkok, Thailand. The meeting was held back-to-back with plenary meeting of the Continental Board of Counsellors in Asia. The meeting greatly benefited from some of the inputs shared by the Geographical Grouping of Central Asia which had recently held its meeting at the World Centre and shared the inputs received from the members of the Teaching Centre and the Supreme Body.

Given the short duration available for consultation, the meeting focused on two main items, namely, the need for Intensification of the Direct Teaching Efforts in all priority clusters and need for Systematization of the Consolidation work in clusters that have experienced large scale enrolments.

II. REVIEW OF MOVEMENT OF CLUSTERS

a. Review of Clusters that Have Launched IPGs

The number of clusters that have launched Intensive Programs of Growth have increased to **53 from the 44** reported at the last meeting.

In reviewing the status of these 53 clusters that have launched Intensive Programs of growth, it was observed that a good number of these clusters have improved significantly in terms the overall sustainability of growth. The following were the status of the clusters in terms of growth and sustainability: The numbers in paranthesis () refers to the status reviewed in September 2007.

	Sustained Growth (AA)	Inconsistent Growth (AB)	Minimal Growth (AC)	Total Category A
Cambodia	**8**	**0**	**0**	**8**
Philippines(6 Council)	**8**	**0**	**0**	**8**
Myanmar	**2**	**0**	**0**	**2**
Malaysia (5 Council)	**1 1**	**2**	**0**	**13**
Pakistan (3 Council)	**4**	**0**	**0**	**4**
Sarawak (3 Council)	**1**	**3**	**2**	**6**
Sabah	**0**	**1**	**0**	**1**
Singapore	**0**	**1**	**0**	**1**
Indonesia	**2**	**5**	**0**	**7**
Thailand	**0**	**1**	**0**	**1**

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Taiwan	**0**	**0**	**1**	**1**
Laos	**1**	**0**	**0**	**1**
	38 (19)	**13 (18)**	**2 (7)**	**53 (44)**

The meeting noted with joy that almost every cluster that has launched IPGs had experienced enrolments during the cycle between the months of October – December, 2007. The Table below lists the 53 clusters and the number of enrolments recorded. A total of 3,583 enrolments have been reported in all these Clusters that have launched IPGs during this duration.

COUNTRY	No.		Clusters	No Enrolled Oct-Dec'07
Sarawak	1	1	Lundu	20
	2	2	Kuching	30
	3	3	Serian	4
	4	4	Bintulu	?
	5	5	Miri	13
	6	6	Sebuyau	
Sabah	7	1	Kota Kinabalu	8
Malaysia	8	1	Sungai Petani	108
	9	2	Seberang Perai	17
	10	3	Penang	15
	11	4	Ipoh	12
	12	5	Kuala Lumpur	29
	13	6	Petaling Jaya	30
	14	7	Subang Jaya	79
	15	8	Klang	92
	16	9	Kajang	48
	17	10	Seremban	16
	18	11	Johor Bahru	102
	19	12	Batu Pahat	14
	20	13	Kulim	27
Philippines	21	1	Solano-Bayombong	120
	22	2	Diffun-Cabarroguis	66
	23	3	San Jose City	221
	24	4	Sablayan Occ	119
	25	5	Metro Manila	132
	26	6	Patpat	104
	27	7	San Jose (Mindoro)	119
	28	8	Cagayan De Oro	52
Pakistan	29	1	Karachi	86
	30	2	Mipurkhas	404

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	31	3	Quetta	73
	32	4	Islamabad	33
Mynamar	33	1	Daydanaw	10
	34	2	YanGon	34
Indonesia	35	1	Kota Bandung	6
	36	2	Jakarta	25
	37	3	K. Bandung	9
	38	4	K. Banyuwangi	11
	39	5	Kota Medan	5
	40	6	Kota Tangerang	3
	41	7	Kab. Luwu	7
Cambodia	42	1	Preavihear	447
	43	2	Oddarmeancheay	111
	44	3	Phnom Penh	28
	45	4	Poipet	72
	46	5	Battambang	121
	47	6	Bovel	36
	48	7	Pursat	76
	49	8	Moung Ressey	202
Thailand	50	1	Yasathon	28
Taiwan	51	1	Taichung City & County	8
Laos	52	1	Vientaine	151
Singapore	53	1	Singapore	8
TOTAL				3583

The meeting also reviewed actions taken on some of the lines of action that were recommended during the last meeting a follows:

Recommendations	Action Taken
To assist all the remaining 7 AC category clusters (Minimal Growth) to become AB or AA	5 have moved and 2 left in Sarawak
To target a minimum of 25 enrolments per cycle per cluster and continue to build capacity to achieve hundreds. Potential enrolments goal for the clusters was set (a listed in the Appendix) which indicated that 1825 new believers were possible in every cycle from these 44 clusters alone.	It has been achieved in many clusters, some far exceeding the goal set.
Need to have fulltime people to help with coordination	Need to reviewed further a not much progress has been made
Need to use Cluster Growth Fund effectively – this may mainly be for the fulltime coordinators in the cluster	Myanmar, Philippines and Cambodia have experienced better utilization of this Fund.

Focus on expansion phase – need to emphasis the importance of inviting people to embrace the Faith	Direct teaching have been reported in almost all clusters
mobilization of Resource Persons to strong clusters to help with expansion phase	Some good experience ha been reported and need to be expanded to other clusters. Training of Resource Persons also need to be done at regional level

b. Review of Other Clusters

The meeting decided that the remaining clusters that have not launched IPGs, be re-categorized according to THE YEAR they would launch IPG instead of the Category II, II and IV suggested at the previous meeting.

The following are the new categories i.e. Category II (those that would launch IPGs by Ridvan 2009); Category III (those that would launch IPGs by Ridvan 2010); and Category IV (those would launch IPG by Ridvan 2011.

(1) Clusters to Launch IPGs by Ridvan 2009

Table below list that 56 clusters that would launch IPG by Ridvan 2009. Of these 25 would launch it by the April 2008 i.e. in the next 3 months. The remaining 31 would be launched by the following nine months. It was also noted with joy that in many of these clusters too, direct teaching initiatives have begun with much success during the last cycle between October and December 2007. At least 1410 enrolments have been reported in these clusters alone.

COUNTRY	No.		Clusters	By Apr 08	By Apr 09	Enrolments Oct - Dec	Target Dates
Sarawak	1	1	Sibu		1		Apr '09
	2	2	Niah	1		4	Mar '08
	3	3	Gedong		1		Apr '09
	4	4	Bakong		1	2	Apr' 09
	5	5	Limbang		1		Apr '09
Sabah	6	1	Pitas		1	0	Apr '09
Malaysia	7	1	Banting	1		45	Apr '08
	8	2	Kota Tinggi	1		47	Apr '08
	9	3	Malacca	1		9	Apr '08
	10	4	Bahau	1		61	Apr '08
	11	5	Bidor-Tapah		1	12	Apr '09

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	12	6	Baling		1	31	Oct '08
	13	7	Taiping		1	35	Oct '08
	14	8	Port Dickson	1		77	Apr' 08
	15	9	Kuala Selangor	1		21	Apr '08
	16	10	Ampang		1	1	Apr '09
	17	11	Nilai		1	1	Apr '09
Philippines	18	1	Aborlan	1		48	Jan '08
	19	2	Ormoc	1		17	Apr '08
	20	3	Gattaran-Aparriest	1		185	Apr '08
	21	4	Central Benguet	1		3	Apr '08
	22	5	Iriga City	1		62	Apr '08
	23	6	Santo Thomas	1		96	Apr '08
	24	7	Bataraza		1	23	Jan' 09
	25	8	Balungao		1	42	Dec' 08
	26	9	Baguio		1	3	Dec' 08
	27	10	Alaminos		1	48	Dec' 08
	28	11	Antipolo		1	5	Oct '08
	29	12	Camotes		1	0	Apr '09
	30	13	Quezon Maramag		1	0	Apr' 09
	31	14	Davao City		1	0	Dec '08
	32	15	Upland (new)		1	0	Apr' 09
	33	16	Magpat (replace Butuan City)		1	0	Apr '09
Vietnam	34	1	Ho Chi Minh City		1		Apr '09
Pakistan	35	1	Hyderabad		1	39	Dec '08
	36	2	Lahore	1		26	Jan '08
	37	3	Naokot	1		28	Mar '08
	38	4	Matli		1	16	Apr '09
	39	5	Rahimyarkhan		1	29	Apr '09
Indonesia	40	1	Kota Makasar	1		4	Feb '08
	41	2	Monganpaula		1		Apr '09
	42	3	K.Lumajang	1		1	Mar '08
	43	4	K.Jember	1		1	Mar '08
	44	5	Kota Surabaya		1	4	Apr '09
	45	6	K. Tulungagung	1			Feb '08
	46	7	Kota Padang		1		Apr '09
Cambodia	47	1	Kampong Thom	1		30	Apr '08
	48	2	Kampong Cham		1	67	Apr '09
	49	3	Kampot		1	9	Apr '09

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Taiwan	50	1	Changhua City & County	1			Jan '08
Myanmar	51	1	TwanTay	1		127	Apr '08
	52	2	OakPho	1		51	Mar '08
	53	3	ThaPyaPin	1		76	Apr '08
	54	7	KyiKone		1	17	Apr' 09
Thaiand	55	1	Bangkok	1		7	Apr '08
Korea	56	1	Seoul		1	0	Apr '09
TOTAL				25	31	1410	

(2) Clusters to Launch IPGs by Ridvan 2010

Table below lists the 52 clusters that would launch IPG between Ridvan 2009 and Ridvan 2010. Some of these cluters too have already experienced direct teaching initiatives during the last cycle between October and December 2007. At least 288 enrolements have been reported in these clusters alone.

COUNTRY	No.		Clusters	IPG Apr 2010	Enrolments Oct - Dec	
Sarawak	1	1	Lubok Antu	1		Apr' 10
	2	2	Simunjan	1		Apr' 10
	3	3	Kanowit	1		Apr' 10
	4	4	Kapit	1		Apr' 10
	5	5	Mukah	1	2	Apr' 10
	6	6	Marudi	1		Apr' 10
Sabah	7	1	Kota Marudu	1	36	Apr' 10
Malaysia	8	1	Perlis	1	6	Apr' 10
	9	2	Alor Setar	1	8	Apr' 10
	10	3	Teluk Intan	1		Apr' 10
	11	4	Rawang	1	8	Apr' 10
	12	5	Kelantan	1	15	Apr '10
	13	6	Kuantan	1	1	Apr' 10
	14	7	Padang Terap	1		Apr '10
	15	8	Tapah	1	4	Apr '10
	16	9	Raub	1	2	Apr '10
	17	10	Sungkai-Trolak	1		
	18	11	Temerloh	1	16	Apr' 10
Philippine	19	1	Santiago	1	16	Nov' 09

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s	20	2	Talavera	1	2	Apr' 10
	21	3	Binalonan	1	0	Apr' 10
	22	4	Naga City	1	0	Apr' 10
	23	5	Daet	1	0	Apr' 10
	24	6	Culasi	1	3	Apr' 10
	25	7	Sibalom	1	3	Apr' 10
	26	8	Puerto Princesa	1	0	Jan '10
	27	9	Cebu	1	2	Apr '10
	28	10	Naawan (+replace Maigo)	1	0	Apr '10
	29	11	Brooks Point (new)	1	0	Jan '10
	30	12	Kidapawan	1	0	Dec '09
Vietnam	31	1	Can Tho City	1	5	Apr '11
	32	2	Ninh Thuan	1	0	Apr '11
	33	3	Danang	1	0	Apr '11
Pakistan	34	1	Rawalpindi	1	27	Apr' 10
Myanmar	35	1	ManDaLay	1	3	Apr' 10
	36	2	NyaungKone	1	39	Apr' 10
	37	3	KyaungKone	1	33	Dec '09
	38	4	PyonTaZar	1	18	Apr '10
	39	5	Pyay	1	15	Apr '10
Indonesia	40	1	K. Lampung	1	0	Apr' 10
	41	2	K. Donggala	1		Apr' 10
	42	3	K. Margoyoso	1		Apr' 10
	43	4	K. Badung	1		Apr '10
Cambodia	44	1	Prey Veng	1		Apr' 10
	45	2	Rottanakiri North	1	18	Apr' 10
	46	3	Pailin	1		Apr' 10
	47	4	Siem Reap	1		Apr' 10
	48	5	Svay Rieng	1		Apr' 10
Thailand	49	1	Chengmai	1	6	Apr' 10
Taiwan	50	1	Nantou City & County	1		Apr' 10
	51	2	Taitung City & County	1		Apr' 10
Laos	52	1	Savannaket	1		Apr' 10
TOTAL				52	288	131

(3) Clusters to Launch IPGs by Ridvan 2011

Table below lists the 42 clusters that would launch IPG between Ridvan 2010 and Ridvan 2011. Some of these clusters too have experienced direct teaching initiatives during the

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last cycle between October and December 2007, reporting 234 enrolments. Of these, the 12 clusters in Cambodia are D clusters that will be opened soon through home front pioneers.

COUNTRY	No.		Clusters	Enrolments Oct - Dec	Target to launch IPG
Sarawak	1	1	Asajaya		Apr '11
Sabah	2	1	Sandakan	15	Apr '11
	3	2	Lahad Datu		Apr '11
Malaysia	4	1	Cameron Highlands		Apr '11
	5	2	Segamat		Apr '11
	6	3	Mersing	8	Apr '11
	7	4	Kuala Trengganu		Apr '11
	8	5	Dungun		Apr '11
	9	6	Lasah Jalong		Apr '11
	10	7	Tanah Rata		Apr '11
	11	8	Ulu Jelai		Apr '11
Philippines	12	1	San Guillermo		Nov '10
	13	2	Dumaguete		Apr '11
	14	3	Iloilo	3	Apr '11
	15	4	Kasibu (new)		Apr '11
Vietnam	16	1	Hanoi		Apr '11
	17	2	Gia Lai		Apr '11
Pakistan	18	1	Multan	14	Apr '11
	19	2	Sargodha	22	Apr '11
	20	3	Sialkot	6	Apr '11
	21	4	Mansara	68	Apr '11
	22	5	Peshawar	25	Apr '11
	23	6	Abbotabad	24	Apr '11
Myanmar	24	1	AungBan	2	Apr '11
	25	2	KyunKalay	37	Apr '11
	26	3	Than Lhin	10	Apr '11
Cambodia	27	1	Kampong Chhnang		Apr '11
	28	2	Kampong Som		Apr '11

	29	3	Kampong Speu		Apr '11
	30	4	Koh Kong North		Apr '11
	31	5	Koh Kong South		Apr '11
	32	6	Kratie		Apr '11
	33	7	Mondol Kiri		Apr '11
	34	8	Monkul Borei		Apr '11
	35	9	Saang		Apr '11
	36	10	Rottanakiri South		Apr '11
	37	11	Stung Treng		Apr '11
	38	12	Takeo		Apr '11
Thailand	39	1	Nonthaburi		Apr '11
	40	2	Omkoi		Apr '11
Taiwan	41	1	Taipei City & County		Apr '11
S. Korea	42	1	Anyang-Seongnam		Apr '11
TOTAL				234	

III. INTENSIFYING THE DIRECT TEACHING WORK

The meeting identified some of the current initiatives for the teaching work in specific countries and suggested some strategies that the respective Counsellors can take to intensify the work, as in the following table.

COUNTRY	CURRENT STATUS	STRATEGIES
PHILIPPINES	25 of the 40 priority clusters already have teaching projects	Continue current strategy of working with all RBCs, Institute and ABMs to plan for the remaining clusters that have not had teaching activities. A Resource Person training to be held in Philippines to assist in the mobilisation of RPs within Philippines.
MYANMAR	All 14 priority clusters have already launched teaching projects	Continue the current strategy of working in collaboration with NSA, Institute and ABMs to increase teaching intensity in all clusters
PAKISTAN	All 16 priority clusters have already launched teaching projects	Continue the current strategy of working in collaboration with RBCs, Institute and ABMs to increae teaching intensity in all clusters
CAMBODIA	12 of 28 clusters have teaching projects.	To systematically implement the 3 strategies identified for opening the 12 D clusters and initiate teaching activities in the 4 clusters to launch IPGs by Apr 2009.

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SARAWAK	5 of 18 priority clusters have started teaching projects	To support the implementation of the plans devised during the recent institutional meeting by holding a training seminar for Resource Persons to help 6 clusters to intensify the teaching work : Miri, Bintulu, Serian, Sibu, Niah and Bakong
SABAH	Teaching projects have been initiated in all the 5 priority clusters.	Resource Persons seminar in Sarawak will also include RPs for Pitas and K. Marudu
MALAYSIA	33 of the 43 priority clusters have launched teaching projects	Mobilise Tamil speaking Resource Persons from the more advanced clusters to assist the clusters that are still have not launched teaching projects. A similar effort to train and mobilise Chinese speaking Resource Persons to clusters that require assistance with Chinese teaching in Sabah, Sarawak and Malaysia
THAILAND	Resource Person from Cambodia to Yasothon has been mobilised and direct teaching has begun. Similarly direct teaching have begun in Chengmai and Bangkok	To mobilise Mr. Nagen from Sungai Petani cluster as Reource Person to help in the teaching work in Bangkok with aim of having Bangkok launch IPG by Apr 2008.
INDONESIA	6 out of 18 priority clusters have launched teaching projects	To consult at Institutional Meeting about the need for greater audaciousness and wisdom in the teaching work within the legal framework of the country and to start teaching in all the priority clusters.
VIETNAM	Teaching projects have been initiated in a couple of priority clusters.	Identify Resource Persons to help with the priority clusters in Vietnam, to be mobilised after the National Spiritual Assembly election is duly completed in March 2008.
S. KOREA	Direct teaching have started in Seoul and Seongnam/Anyang.	Continue to strengthen human resources as well as increase the intensity of direct teaching
TAIWAN	One cluster launched IPG in December	The second cluster will launch IPG in January. Two other clusters will begin 3 month plans with direct teaching.
LAOS	Teaching project has started in Vientiane and the second cycle will begin.	Savanaket and Pakse will begin intensive teaching
SINGAPORE	Direct teaching have started in Singapore.	Direct Teaching will be intenified in the next cycle. To initiate collaboration between Singapore and the Johore Bahru cluter to learn and assist each other in Tamil and Chinese teaching

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IV. STRATEGIES TO SYSTEMATISE THE CONSOLIDATION WORK

The table below summarises the main strategies and lines of action identified for the systematization of the consolidation work in clusters where large scale enrolments have been experienced in recent cycles. As the learning in this area is limited, the strategies were suggestions to be experimented in clusters according to their suitability.

STRATEGIES	LINES OF ACTION
The Role of Training Institute	a. Re-orient their work to the consolidation of the new believers
	b. Hold intensive study circles with view of completing the SC within the first month
	c. Engage the new believers in acts of service from the beginning
Preparing the New Believers for Consolidation at the Point of Acceptance	a. Impress on the new believer at the point of acceptance that they have to learn more and become informed of the knowledge of the new Revelation and the 7 courses available to help them become of service to the community
Systematisation of Home Visit	a. The deepening theme of Book 2 to be covered systematically in the shortest period of time
	b. Preparation of Home Visit package for every visit. Leave behind literature and other item of Bahai identity with new believers: prayer book, Hidden Words, pamphlets, CDs, posters, leaflets etc
Getting New Believers Involved in Teaching	a. Teach the new believers to teach and share the message with others by using the Anna's presentation and invite them join in the teaching projects
Tracking the progress of the new believers	b. Preparation of the Monitoring Forms of New Believers
	c. Using neighbourhood as the main focus for consolidation
	d. Using the family a the main unit of monitoring consolidation
	e. Agencies to trained to use the forms effectively
Coordination of the Consolidation	a. In cluster where IPG has been launched the agencies will need to meet at least 3 time during the cycle - first two weeks before the Expansion Phase to plan the teaching project; immediately after expansion phase finishes to discuss consolidation and one month later to evaluate the progress of the consolidation and take intervention measures
	b. In cluster where there are no agencies appointed, the work need to be carried out by a core-group, especially their Board members and the Assistants or the home front pioneer

The Role of Home Front Pioneers in Consolidation	a. Short term Home front pioneers to be settled in localities where large scale enrolments are being experienced.
	a. Home front pioneers will need to be trained on the multiple tasks that he/she will need to undertake
Goals for Consolidation	a. 50% of the youth and adults new believers must finish Book 1 within the cycle current
	b. 75 % of the junior youth and children of new believers to be enrolled in the system

V. MOBILISATION OF RESOURCE PERSONS

The meeting discussed at length the learning accumulated regarding the mobilization of Resource Persons, particularly for intensifying the teaching work. The meeting reviewed the progress made on the mobilization of Resource Persons that was recommended for action at the lat meeting, as follows:

Receiving Country/ Cluster	**Resource Person**	**Progress/Status**
Philippines San Jose City	Sopheap of Cambodia to help Organise large scale expansion	Successfully carried out with good result. No further assistance needed
Laos Vientiane	Vic Samaniego for intensifying teaching	Successfully carried out with a large enrolments experienced for the first time
Thailand Yasothon Bangkok	Theary and Siden of Cambodia to help teaching parent of JYs Vic Samaniego to help in Direct Teaching	Carried out with good success ??
Sabah Pitas / Kota Marudu Kota Kinabalu	Nazrin of Indonesia for Direct Teaching Tjuan Leena from Indonesia for Direct Teaching	Not carried out as Resource Persons could go at the specified time. Instead some youth from Malaysia were sent to assist in training on Anna's presentation which has resulted in increased enrolments
Vietnam	Mohajer of Singapore for	Has been carried out and on-

	Training Institute	going
Danang cluster	Edna Lee Swee Lai from Singapore for Direct Teaching	Not carried out
Sarawak		
Kuching	Fred from Philippines for Direct Teaching	Pending
	Tjua Leena from Indonesia for Direct Teaching	Carried out and some progress achieved
Malaysia		
Johore Bahru	Gloria Javid from India for Direct Teaching	Has made a second visit which resulted in 108 enrolments. Future visits will be reviewed according to the needs
Sungai Petani	Datta Shahu from India for Direct Teaching	Has visited Sungai Petani which resulted in 102 enrolments, and the second visit is pending

Learning from the experience of the Geographical Grouping for Central Asia in mobilising Resource Persons in clusters in Russia, the GGSEEA felt similar intensity in mobilization of Resource Persons will need to be experimented in more clusters in the region. The respective Counsellors will identify suitable Resource Persons to assist clusters to launch direct teaching.

IV. OTHER MATTERS

In the course of the three days of discussion and consultation other general lines of actions and country specific strategies were also raised:

a. Administrative Aide – The Geographical Groupings agreed that the part-time Administrative Aide who is currently helping the GGSEEA in collecting and analyzing the Cluster Profile Forms need to be guided to systematize the process and advise the various country contact points on the quality of the data collected.

b. Financial Aide – The GGSEEA agreed that a suitable candidate need to be identified to assist the Training Institutes to prepare their budget and to learn to improve the financial record keeping capabilities on Training Institutes

c. Junior Youth Spiritual Empowerment Programme – the GGSEEA took note of the two clusters in Malaysia (Sungai Petani and Kajang) ha been identified by OSED to be sites for learning for the region. Regional training for JY coordinators will be held here to ensure that all training will include hands-on training and practice. Cambodia will have its own site for learning to cater for its language needs.

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We humbly beseech prayers at the Holy Shrines for each and every of the 203 clusters targeted to launch Intensive Programmes of Growth and more specifically for the success of the range of teaching endeavours that have been launched and the consolidation initiatives that are to be carried out in these clusters, as well as for the effective mobilization of the Resource Persons to stimulate and accompany these clusters to victory.

With loving greetings,

GGSEEA

7th January, 2008